

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13
OES-07 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 /119 W
-----182234Z 069390 /75

R 182000Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5374
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 2528

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JM, COMMONWEALTH
SUBJECT: COMMONWEALTH YOUTH MEET

1. A "MEETING OF YOUNG COMMONWEALTH LEADERS"-- THEFIRST
EVER--WAS HELD IN THE RESORT TOWN OF OCHO RIOS ON
JAMAICA'S NORTH COAST DURING THE PERIOD MAY 4-9. DELEGATES
CAME FROM AUSTRALIA, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BOTSWANA,
CANADA, CYPRUS, FIJI, GAMBIA, GHANA, GUYANA, INDIA,
JAMAICA, KENYA, LESOTHO, MALAWI, MALAYSIS, MALTA,
SINGAPORE, SRI LANKA, TANZANIA, TONGA, TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO, UGANDA; WESTERN SAMOA, THE UNITED KINDOM AND
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ZAMBIA. THE ASSOCIATED STATES (ANTIGUA, DOMINICA,
ST. KITTS AND ST. LUCIA) WERE REPRESENTED, ALTHOUGH
THE CHARACTER OF THEIR PARTICIPATION WAS UNCLEAR.
OBSERVERS INCLUDED THE INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENT-
HOOD FEDERATION, THE EEC, THE UNDP, CUBA AND THE
INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO JAMAICA.

2. WE ARE TOLD THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS USED IN VERY LARGE MEASURE BY THE HOST COUNTRY TO PROMOTE ITSELF AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE THIRD WORLD AND TO IDENTIFY ITSELF WITH SOME OF THE MORE "PROGRESSIVE" COUNTRIES IN THAT GROUPING. THE TASK WAS SIMPLIFIED BY THE FACT THAT THE MEETING BEGAN WITHOUT AN AGENDA, THE HEAD OF THE CONFERENCE'S PLANNING COMMITTEE, DR. A. RENAUD, THE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME, HAVING BEEN PERSUADED THAT TODAY'S YOUTH WOULD NOT WISH TO BE BOUNDED BY A RIGID PROGRAM. THUS, THE JAMAICANS WERE ABLE TO GIVE MORE DIRECTION TO THE MEETING THAN WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN THE CASE; THE CHIEF ACTORS WERE THE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN, YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTER HUGH SMALL, ONE OF THE MORE RADICAL MEMBERS OF THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT, VERY MUCH ASSISTED BY THE EFFORTS OF TONY RUTHERFORD WHO SAT ON THE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND THEN SERVED AS CO-SECRETARY OF THE CONFERENCE. THE JAMAICANS HAD THE ACTIVE ASSISTANCE OF THE TANZANIAN DELEGATION WHOSE MEMBERS WERE ALI S. MCHUMO, JUNIOR MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS, KHALIFA B. ABDULLAH, DIRECTOR OF SPORTS AND YOUTH IN THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL CULTURE AND YOUTH, AND MRS. SARAH J. MWENGE, CULTURAL YOUTH OFFICER. (A BRITISH COLLEAGUE WHO ATTENDED SOME OF THE SESSIONS SPOKE OF A "JAMAICAN-TANZANIAN AXIS".)

3. THE DRAFT OF THE CONFERENCE "FINAL REPORT" SUGGESTS--RATHER THAN REVEALS--THAT WHILE THE JAMAICAN-TANZANIAN AXIS SOUGHT TO PUT FORWARD A CONFIDENTIAL

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NUMBER OF THE MORE EXTREME THIRD WORLD POSITIONS, THEIR EFFORTS WERE MODERATED BY THE STEADY EFFORTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN, CANADIAN, NEW ZEALAND (MP ANTHONY P.D. FREIDLANDER WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE) AND TRINIDADIAN DELEGATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS CONSTANT TALK OF "COLONIALISM", "NEO-COLONIALISM", AND THE PERNICIOUS INFLUENCE OF MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS, AND THE NEED FOR "POLITICAL EDUCATION".

4. MOST OF THE DISCUSSION WAS PROMPTED BY THE THREE PAPERS PRESENTED TO THE CONFERENCE. THE FIRST WAS GIVEN BY JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY AND THE OTHER TWO BY THE TANZANIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, SALIM AHMAD SALIM, AND A BANGLADESH DELEGATE, FAZLUL HAQUE. WE KNOW WHAT MANLEY SAID FOR THE TEXT OF HIS PAPER HAS BEEN RELEASED; THE TEXTS OF THE SALIM AND HAQUE PAPERS HAVE NOT APPEARED ALTHOUGH THEY MAY FORM PART OF THE FINAL

CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS. MANLEY'S SPEECH WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING TO US FOR HE USED IT TO ELABORATE ON THE MATERIAL DIFFERENCES SEPARATING THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; TO ASK RHETORICALLY WHY, WHEN MEN OF GOOD WILL WANT TO CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR AND POSSESS THE TECHNOLOGICAL MEANS OF DOING SO, THE GAP REMAINS; AND THEN--USING THE U.S. SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AS AN EXAMPLE--TO POINT OUT THAT THE EVOLUTION OF DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS INVOLVES

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 /119 W

-----182233Z 069543 /75

R 182000Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5375

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINGSTON 2528

THE CREATION OF INITIALLY REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS WHICH GROW INCREASINGLY INDEPENDENT OF POPULAR DIRECTION. AS ONE RESULT OF THIS PROCESS HE SAID, THE ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP IN AN "ENTIRELY AUTHORITARIAN AND UNDEMOCRATIC WAY." THE PRIME MINISTER THEN STRESSED THE NEED FOR "PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY" AND SUGGESTED-- BUT BY IMPLICATION-- THAT WITH GREATER POPULAR PARTICIPATION, A WILLINGNESS TO SHARE WITH

THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COULD EMERGE ON THE PART OF
THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

5. AT THE END OF THE CONFERENCE, THE ASSEMBLED YOUTH
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LEADERS ISSUED A "COMMONWEALTH YOUTH DECLARATION" IN
WHICH THEY URGED:

-- THE INCLUSION OF YOUTH IN THE DECISION-
MAKING PROCESS BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTER-
NATIONALLY IN ORDER ACHIEVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM AND RACISM,
AND CREATION OF A NEW SOCIAL ORDER BASED ON
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.
-- THE MOBILIZATION AND MOTIVATION OF YOUTH,
ESPECIALLY THROUGH POLITICAL EDUCATION.

--ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT MECHANISM
UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT'S
YOUTH PROGRAM TO FACILITATE AN
"ONGOING DIALOGUE AMONG YOUTH LEADERS,
OFFICIALS AND YOUNG POLITICIANS".
-- CREATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
ORDER; ELIMINATION OF COLONIALISM,
NEO-COLONIALISM, THE IMPERIALIST INFLU-
ENCE OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, AND
RACISM; AND THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

- A BIENNIAL MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH
YOUTH LEADERS TO PRECEDE THE MEETINGS OF
COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

6. COMMENT: THE DRAFT OF THE CONFERENCE'S FINAL
REPORT IS BEING POUCHED TO ALL ADDRESSEES. THE
FINAL REPORT WILL BE RELEASED BY THE COMMONWEALTH
SECRETARIAT IN LONDON.

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7. THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH CONFERENCE, LIKE MOST
OTHER YOUTH CONFERENCES, TENDED TO HAVE A RATHER

SIZABLE GERIATRIC COMPONENT--INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE GRANDFATHER. (AT ONE POINT THERE WAS SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF WHAT THE UPPER AGE LIMIT OF "YOUTH" SHOULD BE, WITH SOME ARGUING FOR THE TENDER AGE OF 45.) THE CONFERENCE WAS ALSO NOTABLE FOR THE NUMBER OF BILATERAL SPATS BETWEEN VARIOUS DELEGATIONS, E.G., A RUCKUS BETWEEN THE MALTESE AND JAMAICAN DELEGATIONS OVER THE HEADQUARTERS SITE OF ANY FUTURE SEABED AUTHORITY, AND ANOTHER ON RACISM BETWEEN FIJI AND NEW ZEALAND.

8. COPY OF THIS MESSAGE BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSIES IN COUNTRIES NOT SHOWN AS INFO ADDRESSEES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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